

**Institutional Barriers
Action Plan Template
D R A F T**

Barrier

5 - Lack of transparency in transmission planning process and how non-wires alternatives can be employed.

Description

Currently transmission planning takes place without a good understanding of what could be done as an alternative to a transmission line. Transmission planners are reactive. If loads are forecast to grow, or if generators want to be hooked up to the grid, transmission is built to accommodate the “needs.” As such, transmission folks do not know what opportunities reside on the customer side of the meter, or with generation more strategically placed within the grid or distribution system. Better communication with distribution customers and their customers might make transmission planning more transparent and more receptive to new and innovative ideas.

Link to Other Barriers

- 6 TBL’s requirement to provide wires for generators regardless of location.
- 12 Multiple ownership of contiguous elements of the grid.
- 15 Sponsors of targeted baseload energy efficiency measures potentially capable of delivering grid congestion and reliability benefits cannot capture any of the associated economic value.

Key Agents

- Utilities
- Planning Organizations (RTOs, NWPP-TPC, WECC, SSG-WI)
- State and Federal siting agencies
- Interest Groups

Issues

- Locational Issues: need to understand and disseminate economic consequences of resource siting choices and load growth.
- Need coordinated plan that recognizes impacts on systems of all transmission owners.
- Information needed far enough in advance so that developers, Load Serving Entities and transmission providers can react with a full menu of responses.

Plan

- Engage stakeholders through an existing transmission planning forum, e.g. NWPP-TPC
- BPA develops a first cut at a long-range plan
- Information developed into a region-wide plan
- Response to plan evaluated 2 years after publication
- Plan gets updated every other year

Timeline

- Begin conversations in Fall, 2003
- BPA develops initial Long-Range Plan by January, 2004